

# Epi Update for Friday, May 19, 2023

CENTER FOR ACUTE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY (CADE)  
BUREAU OF HIV, STD, AND HEPATITIS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Items for this week's Epi Update include

- **Increase in latent TB and TB cases among persons from Pacific Island communities**
- **Graduation party food safety**
- **Suspected fungal meningitis outbreak in U.S. patients linked to surgical procedures in Mexico**
- **In the news: Those at high risk of mpox should get 2 doses of Bavarian Nordic (Jynneos) vaccine, US CDC says**
- **Infographic: Risks of untreated inactive TB**

## **Increase in latent TB and TB cases among persons from Pacific Island communities**

Iowa HHS has noted a significant increase in the number of latent TB infection and TB disease cases occurring amongst persons from Pacific Island communities. Citizens of these communities do not have the benefit of medical screening for communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, upon entry to the U.S. TB case rates in these regions are amongst the highest in the world.

In Iowa, reported verified cases of TB disease in persons from these Pacific Island communities continue to rise and represent a significant percentage of the current TB morbidity in Iowa. For reference, in 2020 there were three confirmed TB disease cases identified in this community, and to date in 2023, 11 confirmed/suspect TB disease cases with treatment regimen initiated have been identified in this community.

Think TB over pneumonia with this population when patients present with classic symptoms of pneumonia. Health care providers should be aware of TB signs and symptoms in individuals from these areas, paying particular attention to children in these communities. Children younger than five years of age with exposure to infectious TB disease are susceptible to becoming infected and progressing to invasive, fatal forms of TB disease, including TB meningitis.

Contact the Iowa HHS TB Control Program with any questions.

- Allan Lynch, Program Manager: [Allan.Lynch@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:Allan.Lynch@idph.iowa.gov) or 515-281-7504
- Shirlee Hasstedt, Nurse Consultant: [Shirlee.Hasstedt@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:Shirlee.Hasstedt@idph.iowa.gov) or 515-281-8636

For more information about TB, including symptoms, testing, treatment, and more, visit [www.cdc.gov/tb/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tb/default.htm).

## **Graduation party food safety**

Graduation celebration season is upon us! Each year, Iowa HHS investigates foodborne outbreaks linked to large gatherings. Preparing food for events can be a risk factor for enteric illnesses. Untrained food handlers might not be familiar with important food safety considerations that apply to cooking and serving large amounts of food.

For tips on how to cook safely for large groups, visit

[www.fsis.usda.gov/food-safety/safe-food-handling-and-preparation/food-safety-basics/cooking-groups](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/food-safety/safe-food-handling-and-preparation/food-safety-basics/cooking-groups).

## Suspected fungal meningitis outbreak in U.S. patients linked to surgical procedures in Mexico

CDC has issued a HAN advisory about an outbreak of suspected fungal meningitis among U.S. patients hospitalized in Texas after undergoing cosmetic procedures under epidural anesthesia in the city of Matamoros, state of Tamaulipas, Mexico. It is currently unknown which organism(s) is causing the outbreak. As of May 12, five patients have been diagnosed with suspected fungal meningitis; all have been hospitalized, and one has died. All these patients received epidural anesthesia and underwent cosmetic procedures. Affected patients underwent procedures in at least two clinics in Matamoros, Mexico, including River Side Surgical Center and Clinica K-3. Other facilities might be identified through further investigation.

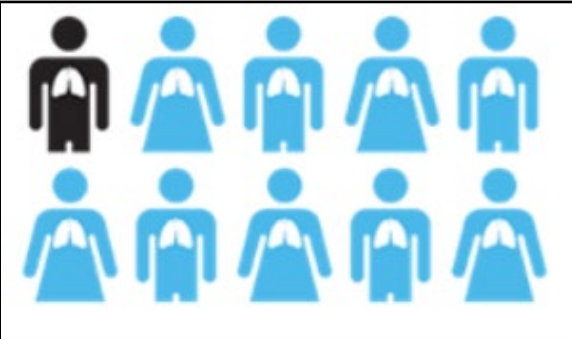
Health care providers and the public should be aware that patients who underwent medical or surgical procedures under epidural anesthesia in Matamoros, Mexico, and who have developed signs or symptoms of possible meningitis (e.g., fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, photophobia, altered mental status) should promptly seek evaluation by a health care provider and convey that medical history.

To view the full CDC HAN, visit [emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00491.asp](https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00491.asp).

## In the news: Those at high risk of mpox should get 2 doses of Bavarian Nordic (Jynneos) vaccine, US CDC says

[www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/people-high-risk-mpox-should-get-2-doses-bavarian-nordic-vaccine-us-cdc-says-2023-05-18/](https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/people-high-risk-mpox-should-get-2-doses-bavarian-nordic-vaccine-us-cdc-says-2023-05-18/)

## Infographic: Risks of untreated inactive TB



**Risks of Untreated Inactive TB**

Without treatment, 1 in 10 people with inactive TB will get sick with active TB disease, which can spread to others and be deadly.

To view in full size, visit [www.cdc.gov/thinktesttreattb/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/thinktesttreattb/index.html).

**Have a healthy and happy week!**

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